

WEBINAR

WEDNESDAYS



Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases

Presented by:

Joshua Clark

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&

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Scottsdale Police Department

Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

3838 N. Central Ave., Suite 850

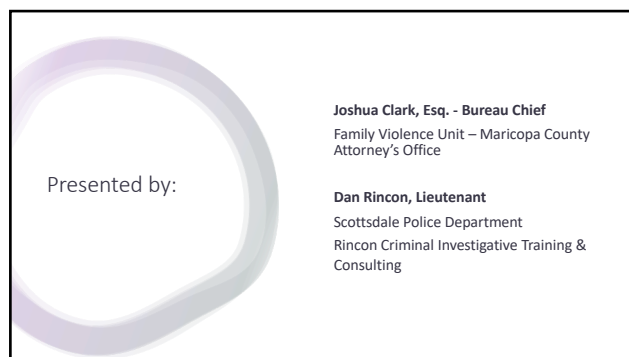
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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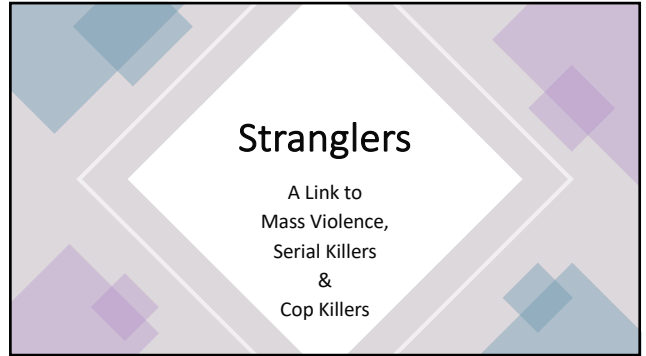
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2013 Treasure Valley (ID) Study

- Evaluated ten officer-involved critical incidents where officer shot a suspect or suspect shot an officer
- 80% of suspects with domestic violence history
- Non-fatal strangulation history in 30%
- Based only on public records history
- More research needed
- We all should be looking for it/tracking it

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Riverside County District Attorney's Office 2013 Study

~Gerald Fineman, J.D.~

- Law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty
- 1993-2013
- 50% of officers were killed by a criminal suspect with a public records act history of strangulation assault against a woman in a prior relationship

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Analysis by Alliance For HOPE International

A review of Officers killed in 2017

33 out of 43 (76%) had been intentionally killed by a male suspect with a history of IPV and strangulation – public records search only

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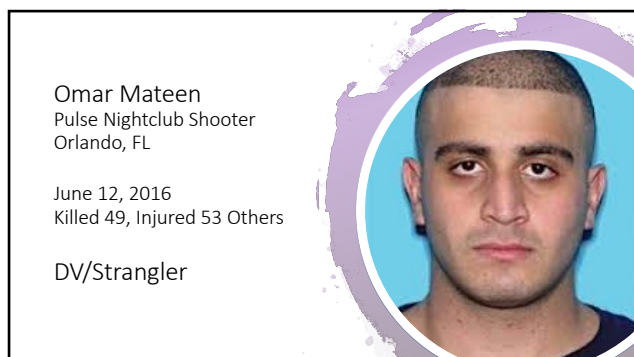
What Mass Killers Really Have in Common

ISAAC MIZRAHI AN UNRULY HISTORY

FINAL WEEKS

Mass Killings have a connection to IPV and strangulation

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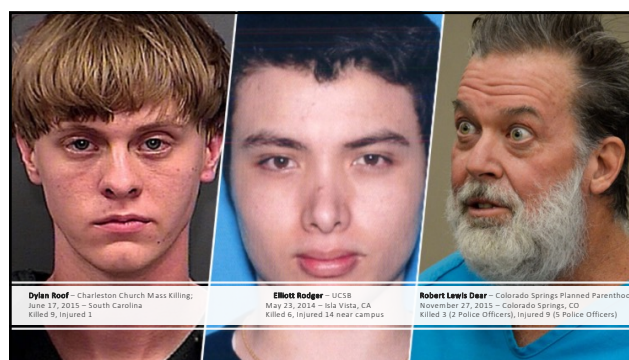
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Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel

July 2016 – Nice, France
Killed 86 (10 Children), Injuring 458


Drove a truck into a crowd who were celebrating Bastille Day.

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SAMUEL LITTLE
THE “CHOKE & STROKE” KILLER

Victims: 60 Confirmed, 93 Confessed

A serial killer who was convicted in 2012 of the murders of three women in California between 1987 and 1989 as well as being convicted in 2018 of the murder of one woman in Texas in 1994.



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Understanding
lethality

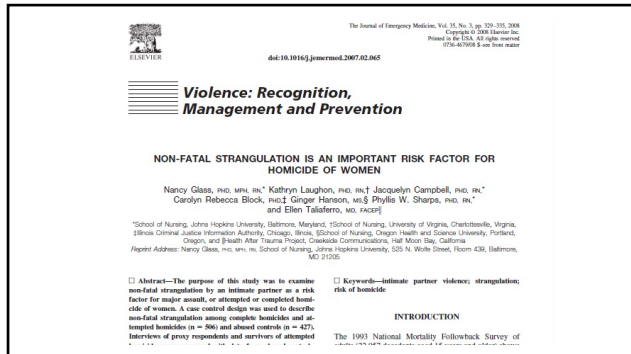
Why it is Important

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Strangulation
is the last warning shot before a murder

#LastWarningShot

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LETHALITY

- Women that are strangled by their partners and survive are
 - ~~750%~~ **1000%** more likely to be killed by their partner in a subsequent assault (Glass et al, 2008)
 - **700%** more likely to suffer an attempt on their lives by their abusive partner at a later time.
 - Thus, your state's strangulation law becomes a homicide prevention measure by allowing prosecutors to file Aggravated Assault (strangulation) charges as a felony **before** the abuser ends up killing his partner.

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LETHALITY



- A 2008 study in the Journal of Emergency Medicine found:
 - **43%** of women who were murdered in domestic assaults and
 - **45%** who were victims of attempted murder

had been choked (strangled) in the **past year** by their male partners.

*Journal of Emergency Medicine – Link
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2573025/>


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HIGH RISK & LETHALITY

STRANGULATION IS DIFFERENT!

- ◆ When battered women were asked what made them believe they were in danger or not...
- ◆ The majority of women who perceived a great amount of danger mentioned “**choking**” as a tactic used against them that made them believe their partner might kill them.

-Stuart & Campbell, 1989

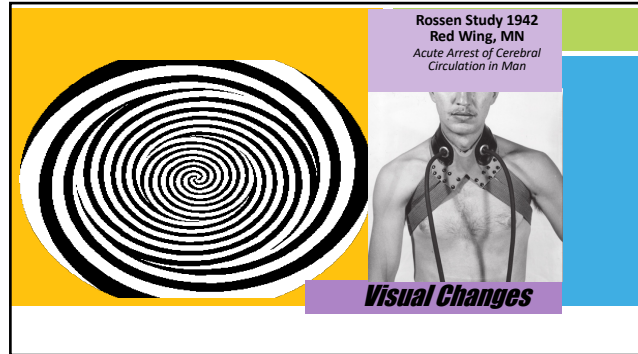


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The Last Warning Shot

- In a study of 494 women who came into Chicago hospitals and clinics for any reason and who said they had experienced IPV in the past year, 47.3% had experienced at least once incident in the past year in which her partner had tried to choke or strangle her" – Glass 2008
- "There was no difference between women who were not killed and the women who were killed in having experienced prior choking or strangulation"

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Neurologic Insult to Brain

Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry, 1944 Vol. 50, 5

ACUTE ARREST OF CEREBRAL CIRCULATION IN MAN

LIEUTENANT RALPH ROSSEN (MC), U.S.N.R.*

HERMAN KABAT, M.D., Ph.D.
BETHESDA, MD.
AND

JOHN P. ANDERSON
RED WING, MINN.

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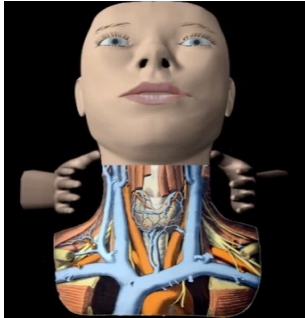
"Acute Arrest of Cerebral Circulation in Man"

"Acute arrest of circulation in the human brain was studied in 11 schizophrenic patients and in 126 normal young male subjects (inmates)"

More than 500 controlled strangulations

"The neurons in the brain are the cells of the body most sensitive to anoxia."

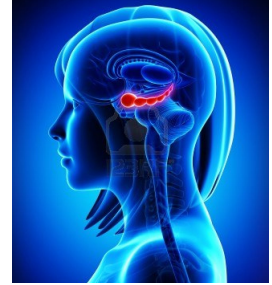
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Hippocampus

- The hippocampus is **critical for forming memory, organizing and storing.**
- Hippocampus is **most sensitive to lack of oxygen.**
- If no blood flow, the **brain is not working.**
- No blood flow. **No memory.**
- No memory means **damage to hippocampus.**



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Patrol Response

Maximize Effectiveness

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The Call...

1. 911 Call: Listen to it and get certified copy for case
2. Arrival::
 1. Start your Body-Worn Camera (or Digital Recorder)
 2. Separate parties, maintain officer safety and be a good listener
 3. Look and Listen for Signs & Symptoms
 4. Call for Paramedics
 5. Understand your victim might be traumatized. Story may not be in chronological order. Start with what they remember. Have them use sensory (Feel, Smell, Hear, etc.)

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Investigation

- Use the Strangulation/Suffocation Investigative Worksheet to document
- Evidence-Based investigation (How can I prove this case without the testimony of the victim)
- Identify the offender (if not on-scene). Family photo, MVD Photo, Photo on their Phone, Line-Up.
- Take photographs of victim, suspect, others present (children)
- Technology (cell phone, surveillance, social media, etc.)
- Letters, notes from suspect giving to victim from past events

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Investigation & Follow-up

- Take photographs of victim, suspect, others present (children)
- Technology (cell phone, surveillance, social media, etc.)
- Letters, notes from suspect giving to victim from past events
- Detectives involved or advised
- Medial Records Release
- Follow-up photographs
- Jail Calls
- Forensic Nurse Exam

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**TRAINING INSTITUTE on
STRANGULATION
PREVENTION**

Specialized Reporting Form

Strangulation / Suffocation Investigative Worksheet

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STRANGULATION/SUFFOCATION INVESTIGATIVE WORKSHEET

Victim Information: Name, DOB, Race, Sex, Height, Weight, Hair Color, Eye Color, Blood Type, etc.

Offender Information: Name, DOB, Race, Sex, Height, Weight, Hair Color, Eye Color, Blood Type, etc.

Witness Information: Name, DOB, Race, Sex, Height, Weight, Hair Color, Eye Color, Blood Type, etc.

Investigation Details: Date, Time, Location, Weather, etc.

Medical Records: Hospital, Doctor, Date, etc.

Photographs: Victim, Offender, Others Present, etc.

Notes: Detailed account of the incident, including statements from the victim, offender, and witnesses.

Medical Records: Hospital, Doctor, Date, etc.

Photographs: Victim, Offender, Others Present, etc.

Notes: Detailed account of the incident, including statements from the victim, offender, and witnesses.

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STRANGULATION/SUFFOCATION INVESTIGATIVE WORKSHEET

AGENCY NAME: _____

VICTIM/OFFENDER/WITNESS INFORMATION **REPORT NUMBER:** _____

Victim's name: _____ DOB: _____

Offender's name: _____ DOB: _____

Relationship: _____ Length of relationship: _____ Relationship status? _____

History of D.V.: _____

Is there an active Order of Protection? Yes No If so, issue date: _____ Court: _____

Who else was present during the attack? _____

Who have you called, texted or spoken with about this incident? _____

MEDICAL

Was the victim transported to the hospital? Yes No Refused Transporting EMS: _____

Name of Hospital: _____ Medical Professional: _____

Medical Release obtained? Yes No Is the victim pregnant? Yes No If so, how far along? _____

Recent Hospital, ER, or Urgent Care visits? _____

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MANNER AND METHOD OF STRANGULATION/SUFFOCATION

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: ☐ One Hand (L or R) ☐ Two Hands ☐ Forearm ☐ Knee/Foot ☐ Strangulation Hold

☐ Object over Nose & Mouth (Manual or Object) ☐ Ligature ☐ Pressure to Chest/Abdomen ☐ Other: _____

Describe: _____

Duration the victim was strangled/suffocated: _____ Sec. _____ Min. _____ Unsure _____ Multiple times? Yes No Do you have pain now? Yes No

Describe: _____

Were you simultaneously shaken while being strangled? Yes No Unsure _____

Pressure exerted on your neck/nose/mouth. Select one (1=Weak - 10=Very Strong): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extent of pain experienced during strangulation/suffocation. Select one (1=Weak - 10=Very Strong): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Did you lose of consciousness? Yes No Unsure _____ Have there been prior incidents of strangulation/suffocation? Yes No How many times? _____

Describe: _____

VICTIM'S BREATHING:

Was there a time when you could not talk or scream while being strangled? Yes No Was it difficult for you to breathe? Yes No

Describe your ability to breathe. Select one (1=Normal-10=Unable to breathe): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Pain while breathing? Yes No Shallow breathing? Yes No Clearing of the throat? Yes No Rapid breathing? Yes No

Any other changes to your breathing? Yes No Describe: _____

INTENTION/OFFENDER MENTAL STATE

What did the offender say during/after the attack? _____

What did you think was going to happen to you? _____

What caused the attack to stop? _____

Describe the offender's demeanor and facial expressions during the attack: _____

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INVESTIGATIVE/CRIME SCENE/ADVOCACY

☐ Lethality/Risk/Danger Assessment completed ☐ DV Forensic Exam completed by a Forensic Nurse Examiner

Does the Offender have access to firearms? Yes No Location of firearms: _____ Firearms seized? _____

Photographs of all injuries and physical evidence: ☐ Victim ☐ Suspect ☐ Scene(s). Taken by: _____

Audio Recordings of all interviews ☐ Body-worn Camera Recording

Evidence Collection (ligature, weapon, soiled clothing, surveillance videos, cell phone messages/voice recordings, etc.)

Detective notified or responded: _____

Victim Advocate notified ☐ DV Pamphlets/Crisis/Referral Information given to the victim

strangulationtraininginstitute.com | institute@allianceforhope.com | (888) 511-3522

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SYMPTOMS

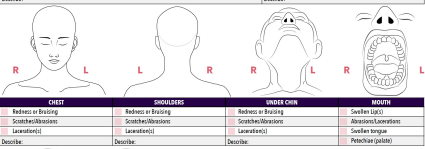
SYMPTOMS	DURING	AFTER	UNSURE	NO	DESCRIPTION
Hedache					
Dizziness/Feel Faint					
Disoriented					
Less or changes in vision					
Less or changes in hearing					
Raucy/hoarse Voice					
Difficulty Speaking					
Unable to Speak					
Painful to Swallow					
Trouble Swallowing					
Sore Throat					
Neck Pain					
Coughing					
Nausea					
Vomiting/Dry Heaving					
Physical Pain					
Involuntary Urination					
Involuntary Defecation					
Other					

*Is the victim wearing the same clothes that they were wearing during the attack? Did they change clothes?

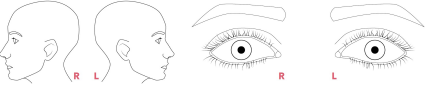
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VISIBLE SIGNS

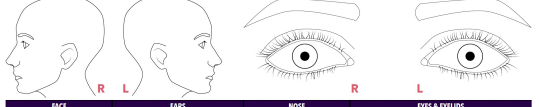
FACE		HEAD	
Redness or Bruising	Location:	Bumps	Hair pulled
Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Petechiae on scalp	Hair missing
Lipstick Marks	Petechiae	Scatches/Abrasions	Location(s)
Describe:		Describe:	



EYES		EYEBROWS		EYELIDS		MOUTH	
Redness or Bruising	Location:	Redness or Bruising	Location:	Redness or Bruising	Location:	Scatches (lips)	Location(s)
Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Abrasions (teeth)	Location(s)
Lacerations	Location(s)	Lacerations	Location(s)	Lacerations	Location(s)	Swollen tongue	Location(s)
Describe:		Describe:		Describe:		Describe:	



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FACE		EARS		NOSE		EYES & EYELIDS	
Redness or Bruising	Location:	Swelling	Location:	Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Petechiae in eye(s)	Right Left
Scatches/Abrasions	Location:	Swelling	Location:	Swelling	Location:	Petechiae in eyelid(s)	Right Left
Petechiae	Location:	Bleeding from ear(s)	Right Left	Nasal fracture	Location:	Blood in eyeball(s)	Right Left
Bruising	Location:	Petechiae	Location:	Petechiae	Location:	Orbital fracture(s)	Right Left

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Types of Risk / Lethality Assessment Programs

- **Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS):** Dr. Neil Websdale & Dr. Jill Messing
- **Maryland Model:** Dr. J. Campbell
- **Mosaic Threat Assessment**

Why are they important?

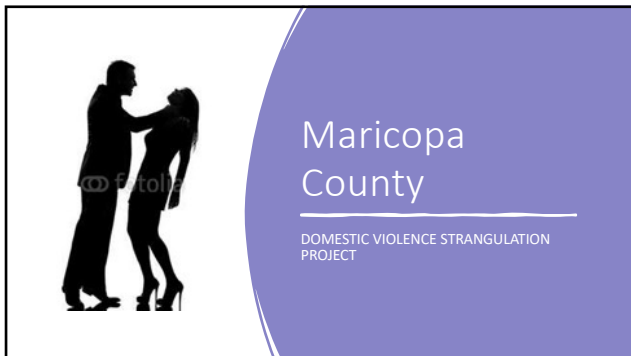
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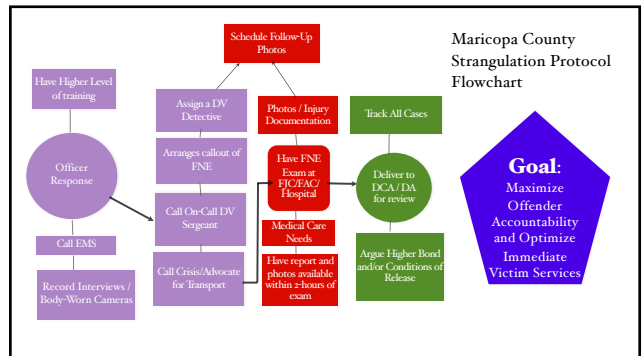
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PILOT PROJECT

❖ **BEGAN DECEMBER 1, 2011**

❖ **Partners**

- ❖ Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- ❖ Glendale Police Department
- ❖ Chandler Police Department
- ❖ Scottsdale Healthcare



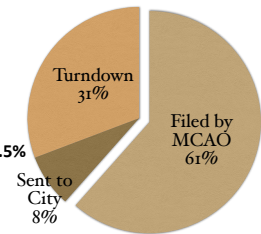
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31 exams of consenting victims 26 of these cases were submitted for felony charges to MCAO

Results:

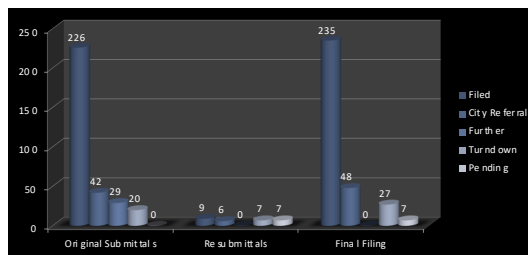
- 16 - Cases filed by MCAO
- 2 - Sent to City
- 8 - Turndown

*Filing rate Increase from 14% filed to **61.5%** filed.



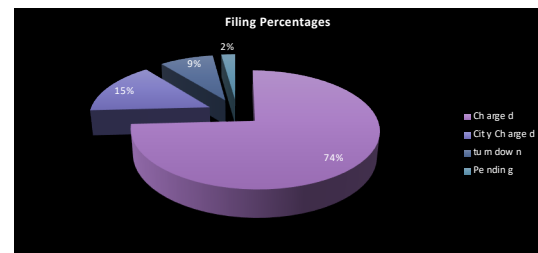
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Cases Filed in Maricopa County
2-month period in 2014



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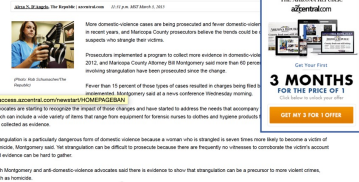
Cases filed in Maricopa County



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Reduction in Homicides

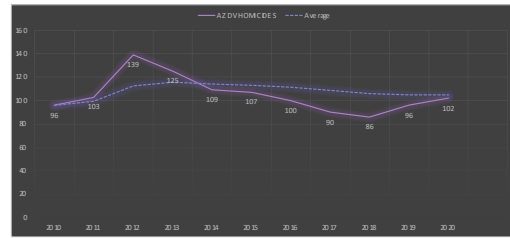
Maricopa County domestic-violence deaths drop after policy change



<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/03/02/county-attorney-strangulation-protocol/24001897/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

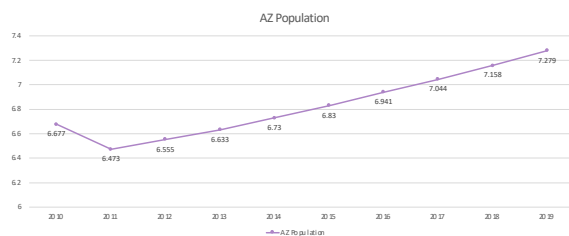
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ARIZONA DV HOMICIDES 2010 - 2020



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Population of Arizona (2010 – 2020)



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Questions?

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